What Was Its Cause?

Gigantic Ash Layer Found Under Ocean

NEW YORK (UPI) — Scientists delving into the secrets of the Pacific Ocean have discovered a gigantic layer of clean white ash of such huge proportions it is believed to have recorded a major physical event in the earth's history.

Although it will be many months before scientists are sure of what they have, they speculated that the ash may be the remains of a spectacular volcanic eruption or a massive collision of heavenly bodies in outer space whose debris fell into the sea.

Indications are that the event, whatever it was, took place within the last 100,000 years.

News of the find was reported yesterday by Dr. Lamar Worzel, Columbia University professor of geology and assistant director of Columbia's Lamont geological observatory.

The ash was discovered in 11 deep-sea cores taken from the bottom of more than 500,000 square miles of the eastern Pacific as part of a major 10-month geological expedition.

Dr. Worzel said sub-bottom sound reflections indicated the ash layer extends at least 750 miles north of the equator and about 825 miles south of the equator within a few hundred miles of Central and South America.

The ash ranged from an inch to a foot thick, he said, and "indications are that it covers a much larger area than we sampled."

The fact that the layer of ash was clear and free from submarine life and other ocean debris, Dr. Worzel said, led scientists to believe it took a comparatively short period of time, perhaps within a year or so, to fall. He added the ash may have come from a volcanic eruption in the Andes.

A second report said that the huge ash layer "could hardly be without some recorded consequence of global extent."

The supplementary report, by S. Maurice Dwing, Bruce Heezen and David Ericson, all of Lamont Observatory, said the ash layer resulted from "either a single explosion or the simultaneous explosion of many volcanoes or conceivably a cometary collision."

Ice Cream Widow Gets $35,840

SYDNEY, Australia (Reuters)—A woman whose husband was smothered by ice cream when a truck overturned has been awarded £16,000 Australian ($35,840). Mrs. Lila Reid's husband, Stanley, was a passenger in a truck that overturned in 1955. Rescuers found his body buried under tons of melting ice cream.

10,000 Protest A-Bombs

LONDON (Reuters) — A four-mile-long column of nearly 10,000 men, women and children marched into London Monday in a demonstration against nuclear weapons.

It was one of the biggest demonstrations seen in London since depression days.

Ten thousand more Londoners waiting in Trafalgar Square broke into applause when the marchers arrived after a four-day, 53-mile protest trek from Aldermaston, where Britain's atomic weapons are made.

The marchers — guided through traffic by policemen the whole route — silenced their improvised bands and singing when they reached Parliament Square and marched in silence past government offices in Whitehall and Prime Minister Macmillan's residence at 10 Downing Street.

The only noise was a single drum beating out in morse code the letter "nd" — for nuclear disarmament.

The column swelled constantly as it wound through London suburbs into the centre of the city.

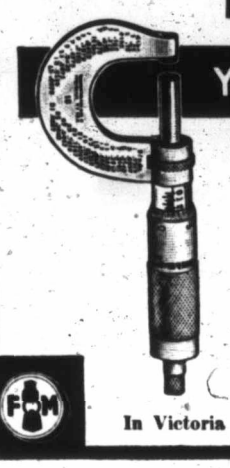
Many persons watching from sidewalks joined in with the weary marchers.

Beneath the statue of Admiral Horatio Nelson a succession of speakers urged that Britain stop making H-bombs.

Many marchers wheeled baby carriages and guided small children.

There were African Negroes and Jamaicans who played calypso music on drums.

Dozens of countries were represented by various groups.



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Kremlin Answer Hailed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Officials cautiously welcomed Monday Russia's acceptance of Western proposals that a Big Four foreign ministers conference starting May 11 serve as a possible prelude to a later summit meeting.

Most authorities appeared gloomy about the prospect that foreign ministers could reach any concrete agreements. They forecast a meeting lasting two to three weeks.

High American officials said they are still studying Russia's note to see if it contained hidden "gimmicks" which might require clarification.

They said they were gratified that the Kremlin agreed to an agenda broad enough to cover consideration of all problems related to Germany.

A foreign office spokesman in London said Prime Minister Macmillan's government was glad to see Russia has accepted the date and place for a conference.

Laughing Death Strikes

HONOLULU (AP)—A disease called "The Laughing Death" is mysteriously destroying islanders in New Guinea, a missionary reported here Sunday.

Evelyn Muhlenhard, a lay missionary, said the affliction has mainly hit women and children, who suddenly take sick and "waste away" with their faces contorted in a grin.

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